

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute the attached replacement sheet(s) for Figure 13 of the drawings as originally filed.

#### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

A replacement sheet of drawing showing Figure 13 designated as prior art is submitted herewith to overcome the objection to the drawings.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to clarify the manner in which Applicant's invention distinguishes patentably from the prior art relied upon in the rejections.

Claim 1 now recites at least one set of torque transmission spherical members and recites at least one torque transmission roller with a cylindrical surface portion, the roller being preloaded in the axial direction. Claim 2 is more specific in reciting surfaces that are substantially perpendicular to the axial direction, one such perpendicular surface being in contact with the roller.

New dependent Claim 9 recites plural sets of torque transmission spherical members and plural torque transmission rollers.

None of the references relied upon in the rejections teaches nor suggests the invention recited in Claims 1, 2, and 9, in which there is a combination of torque transmission spherical members and rollers with cylindrical portions, more particularly rollers that are needle rollers as recited in Claim 9.

Advantages of the invention are set forth in the specification on pages 14-16. For example, with the roller preloaded in the axial direction, there is no play between the roller and its grooves, so that there is no vibration or deterioration of steering feeling.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2-9 distinguish patentably from the prior art and should be allowed.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-10298) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/8/09

By: Nelson H. Shapiro  
Nelson H. Shapiro  
Reg. No. 17,095

Miles & Stockbridge, P.C.  
1751 Pinnacle Drive  
Suite 500  
McLean, Virginia 22102-3833  
(703) 903-9000

NHS:ecr